

186 187. The composite membrane of claim <sup>167</sup>~~168~~, wherein the thickness of said composite membrane is at most 0.3 mils.

187 188. The composite membrane of claim <sup>167</sup>~~168~~, wherein the thickness of said composite membrane is at most 0.2 mils.

188 189. The composite membrane of claim <sup>167</sup>~~168~~, wherein the thickness of said composite membrane is at most 0.1 mils.--

#### REMARKS

Claims 27-98 added by Preliminary Amendment filed January 27, 1999 include two claims numbered "27," and are improperly numbered, and have been canceled. Reference to the ionic conductance "rate" in the claims has been clarified, and support can be found in Table 4 at specification page 18. New claims 100-189 have been added which correct the improper claim numbering of claims 27-98 and, in addition, have also been amended in formal regards. No new matter has been introduced by the Amendment. Examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Second Preliminary Amendment  
Serial No.09/209,932

Atty. Docket: 0769-4582US1

**AUTHORIZATIONS:**

The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required for the consideration of this paper, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500. Order No. 0769-4582 US1. A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,

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